



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-17

Date: March 9, 2007

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Corps employee receives water safety honor ***Recognition is for developing multi-faceted safety program***

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee has received a national award for developing a water safety program.

Deborah Norton, a natural resource specialist at the Walla Walla District's Dworshak Dam near Orofino, Idaho, was presented an Award of Merit by the National Water Safety Congress at a banquet held March 7 in San Antonio.

The National Water Safety Congress' Web site says those receiving their Award of Merit "are selected from nominees that the Regional Vice President believes made a significant contribution or an outstanding effort to enhance or promote water safety at the local or state level." The Congress said the goal of its award program is to "further promote water and boating safety, helping to reduce the number of drowning and boating accidents now occurring each year."

In a January 17 letter, the Congress' Region 6 Vice President Randy Henry wrote Norton she was "responsible for an impressive number of water-safety related projects, ranging from numerous news releases and billboards to boat ramp signs that included 15-foot high personal flotation devices with the message, 'Wear it for life.'"

Henry also credited Norton because she had "produced slide shows, developed lifejacket loaner kiosks, and initiated a 'Be safe: Watch Your Children' program that encourages 'designated watchers' at local family beaches. You have brought to thousands of individuals crucial and creative water safety messages through your unbounded innovation and tireless dedication to public water safety education."

Norton was nominated for the honor by her supervisor, Dworshak Park Manager Michael Deitrick.

Other parts of Norton's water safety initiatives at Dworshak Dam included designing an interactive water safety room on the second floor of the Dworshak Visitor Center. She has taken water safety lectures to schools and recorded water safety messages for broadcast stations and her park's informational radio transmitter. Norton has also produced videos with a water safety message for local fairs and sport shows.

According to the National Water Safety Congress, the Award of Merit is presented annually to recipients from several geographical districts. The Congress also presents one Regional Award for each area served, one National Award, and multiple Letters of Commendation.

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